flung the mould of-earth upon his feet; and he:-sang the psalm,
"Lord Thou hast liberated me!* because the dead man is he who
is liberated from the flesh. But unseen of him, while kneeling beside'
his bier, the good wife heard it and in her own song, changed the
prayer of the solitary *me* into the married *us :*
Lord, Thou hast
liberated us ! * The man was taken far beyond human habitation
and forbidden not only from coming into human society but even from
opening his mouth. So he accepted his severe solitude, none nearing
him, none talking to him. But the devoted wife took'- the' old
of roses and approached him nearer and nearer. He only beckoned
and made signs to her not to come near. She says,
I am not to come
near you, because you think my beauty will be tainted and marred
by it ? She feels in the warning a bitter touch of reproach implying,
That beauty which you sold to another, why tarnish it now by my
touch ?' Yet she persists, (! will draw near, I have brought our old
roses for "you. I have long since changed your psalm, in the church
from the solitary 'me* into the married "us*. The leper plague is
"upon you. But it can never mar my beauty. All will be well, if I
lose it and myself in the higher beauty which is yours. I come to be
by you, united for ever with you as your wife.'* The husband is
moved ; and still he tells her to keep aloof but asks her to fling the
roses -tp him, as he is willing to take them ; only,

she must not come
near, because that beauty which has remained dear
as the beauty of
a faithful wife must not be tarnished by the leper's
touch. But she
repeats she has come to be one with him and
declares she never loved
him more while a young and fair maid herself and
she can now have
no life apart from his, for she must find her life in
and with him alone.
Then he beckons her to come a little nearer. She
says it is invitation
enough and, drawing closer, tells him that, while he
was away on the
crusade, she was once out in the open with a
furious storm blowing
over her and she knelt in the storm before the God
riding over i-t; and
prayed that the blue bolt of the storm might not
descend upon the
head of her beloved husband ; and while she. was
thus engaged- in
praying not for her own but for her husband's
safety, the old tempter
came again and she clapped her hands in open'
disregard and the
thunderbolt descended upon him and instantly
reduced him to dust.
Thus her soul has been purified through self-
abnegation and by the
preservation of her husband and. the destruction of
the tempter.
With this, she avers again, ' I must live in, and find
my life only with
you,* throws herself into his embrace and adds, '
Kiss me ; I am come
to live and die with you, in the name of the
everlasting God/ That is
a:- splendid.. picture "of the process of Love—the
great, sanctifier and